

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY STARTUP PROGRAM

(TC-00-12-07-2-UR)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executing agency:	Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay [Technology Laboratory of Uruguay] (LATU)	
Beneficiaries:	The primary beneficiaries of the program will be young entrepreneurs and other interested professionals with a technical background in information and communication technology (ICT), and startup businesses in the ICT sector. The program will also benefit universities, technology institutes, and the business community by strengthening their mutual ties.	
Financing:	Modality:	Grant (Facility III- A)
	MIF	US\$ 946,000 (51.7%)
	Local counterpart:	US\$ 882,500 (48.3%)
	Total:	US\$1,828,500
Objectives:	The general objective of the program is to boost growth in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector in Uruguay, by promoting the establishment of business startups in the sector through a business incubation system that reduces the risk inherent in early operation of business startups. The specific objectives of the program are to: (i) identify ICT startups with potential; and (ii) improve decentralized entrepreneurship through a virtual business incubation system and the establishment of a center for services to support ICT startups. The program will also help enhance the country's image as a technology producer.	
Execution timetable:	Execution period:	36 months
	Disbursement period:	42 months
Conditions precedent:	The following activities must be carried out as conditions precedent to the first disbursement: (i) establishment and startup of the technical committee; (ii) hiring of the incubator director; and (iii) implementation of the Operating Regulations (see paragraph 8.1).	

**Exceptions to
Bank policy:**

None

**Social and
environmental
impact:**

The Committee on Environment and Social Impact reviewed the project abstract on 2 March 2001 and had no comments.